

TO: Members of the California Library Community

FROM: Dr. Kevin Starr, State Librarian of California

DATE: July 6, 2001

SUBJECT: Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant Program

I am pleased to announce the fiscal year 2002/2003 program of grant awards in California from federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds. Application materials will be available via the Internet or will be mailed on request to any interested person.

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis for the 2002/03 funds available. Generally speaking, the broad goal of LSTA is to provide local assistance to all types of libraries in the areas of technology innovation, resource-sharing, multitype library networking, and targeted services to people who are underserved, disadvantaged, geographically isolated, illiterate, etc. Based on section 212 of the Act, the California State Plan for use of LSTA funds, 1998 - 2002, was approved by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services in September 1997. In the plan we defined four State-level purposes for which we are using the funds. They are:

1. Free and convenient access to learning and information resources through libraries of all types for individuals of all ages.
2. Library services available in all parts of the state that provide all users access, through state, regional, national and international electronic networks, to information resources they require to meet their diverse, changing, and expanding educational, economic, knowledge, social, cultural, recreational, and life fulfillment needs.
3. Development and implementation of the necessary electronic and resource-sharing linkages among and between libraries to support California's multitype library network development.
4. Promotion and enhancement of targeted library services to people of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds; to individuals with disabilities; and to people with limited functional literacy or information skills.

These broad goals are intended to encourage flexibility, allowing us to base grant decisions on needs identified by the California library community. We intend to keep the program's scope as open-ended as allowable under the Act and federal regulations.

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Libraries of all types - academic, corporate, institutional, public, school, and special - are eligible for grants. Approved grant projects will begin on October 1, 2002, and conclude on September 30, 2003.

The basic application procedure has two stages: first, a proposal for a grant concept is submitted, followed after review by advice to the applicant from the State Librarian regarding the competitiveness of the proposed project. Completed applications may then be submitted, with awards announced after decision by the State Librarian. Detailed instructions may be found in the application packet.

The 2002 timeline (subject to change) for application and grant processing is as follows:

January*	Proposals due at Library Development Services, State Library
April*	Decisions by State Librarian
April/May*	Advice letters on Proposals mailed
June*	Applications due at Library Development Services
August/Sept.*	Announcement of awards
October 1	Start of 2002/03 projects

*Consult the Planning Calendar (enclosed) for estimated date.

If you would like to apply for an LSTA grant for 2002/03 or are interested in the program and wish to know more about it, an updated application packet will be available on the California State Library Web site at www.library.ca.gov. Go to "Highlights" and click on LSTA Grants. Or send your request **(together with a mailing label, please)** to:

Library Development Services
ATTN: LSTA Application Packet
California State Library
P.O. Box 942837
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001

Note that the packet now displayed on the Web site is for 2001/2002, the immediately forthcoming grant year for which awards will be made in August 2001. However, that material may be used for general guidance until it is replaced by the revised information for 2002/2003.

All applicants should take note of a special information flier included with this packet regarding the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) which has a bearing on certain applicants' decisions to seek LSTA funding. CIPA attaches requirements to the use of federal funds to purchase computers or service used to access the Internet. For LSTA, the law affects public libraries and public school libraries. The State Library's preliminary understanding is that CIPA will take effect with LSTA grants made for FY 2002/03 (starting October 1, 2002). There are many ambiguities and unresolved issues regarding the application of the law. More information will be furnished to applicants as it becomes available from cognizant agencies including the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the federal agency responsible for LSTA.

For assistance with LSTA application materials contact Jay Cunningham, LSTA Coordinator, tel. (916) 653-8112; e-mail: jcunningham@library.ca.gov.

Enclosure

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